VI. to identify and quantify any additional investment opportunities which are more attractive and submit the same to the Board for its consideration;

VII. such other functions as may be delegated to it by the Board from time to time.

The Committee is expected to submit its report by 15-8-2002.

Outstanding dues of MTNL in Delhi

†173. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the outstanding dues of MTNL on consumers in Delhi and the details of the different categories alongwith the number of persons belonging to each category; and

(b) the decision Government propose to take to recover outstanding dues from the consumers irrespective of their category and take punitive action against non-payment of the outstanding amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) A total amount of Rs. 516.04 crore was outstanding as on 31-3-2002 on the basis of telephone bills issued to consumers till 31-12-2001. The details are in statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) The following steps are taken to recover the outstanding dues from the consumers :

(i) Consumers are informed on telephone about the outstanding dues and are advised to make payment within three days.

(ii) In case of non-payment of dues within this period, all outgoing calls are disconnected after informing the consumers on telephone that the facility to send the outgoing calls is going to be withdrawn.

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(iii) The facility to receive the incoming calls is also withdrawn in case of non-payment of dues.

(iv) Registered notices are sent to consumers who fail to pay the dues in time.

(v) Departmental employees of the recovery cell of MTNL are sent to recover the dues.

(vi) Legal action in taken against the defaulting consumers when all the steps mentioned above prove to be ineffective.

Statement

Outstanding dues of MTNL, Delhi as on 31-3-2002 in respect of billing upto 31-12-2001

(Rs. in thousand)

Sl. No.	Category of Subscribers	No. of cases	Outstanding amount
1.	State Government	7661	10994
2.	Central Government	70300	112827
3.	Defence Ministry	11603	30147
4.	Embassies	23249	59523
5.	Statutory	18853	21337
6.	Private Parties	4695214	4925636
	TOTAL	4826880	5160464

State of Tata in VSNL

174. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the state (per cent) of Tata Group of Companies in VSNL;

(b) whether a company below 26 per cent of share holding in VSNL has got the stake in decision making in VSNL; and